

3651
02100
31529.0001



I hereby Certify that this Correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 11, 2000.

Barbara Haggerty

Name

Barbara Haggerty

Signature

July 11, 2000

Date of Signature

#2
IDS
ASW
8/17/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Guldenfels
Serial No. : 09/579,090
Filed : May 25, 2000
For : Radius Conveyor Belt
Examiner : Unknown
Art Unit : 3101

RECEIVED
AUG 15 2000
TO 3500 MAIL ROOM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.56

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

1. Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this IDS shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner (Notice of Jan. 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25).

2. Attached is Form PTO-1449. Legible copies of all items listed accompany this IDS.

3. A concise explanation of the possible relevance of the listed information items is as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 4,557,374 to Bode describes a conveyor belt constructed of individual modules having the pivot rod receiving holes as opened-up slots 142, 144 (Figs. 14 to 17). The opened-up slots are defined with respect to Figs. 5 to 9 as being in the shape of a right triangle with rounded corners. Fig. 18 shows pivot rod receiving slots having a diamond shape.

U.S. Patent No. 5,439,099 to Bos et al. relates to a conveyor belt constructed of pivotably connected modules having hinge pin openings 14, 24 in the respective first and second link ends. The hinge pin openings are oblong. The longitudinal axis of the oblong openings appear to form an acute angle with respect to a horizontal plane. This can be seen, for example in Fig. 5a.

U.S. Patent No. 4,989,723 to Bode et al. relates to a conveyor belt of modules having a first and second plurality of link ends provided with oversized openings 46a, 46b (Fig. 9) receiving a hinge pin. The openings 46a, 46b are of a generally rounded-corner triangular shape. The triangular shape is formed by a lower side 48 that is at least generally horizontal, a side 50 nearest the center of the module which is generally vertical and an oblique side 52 which faces downwardly (when the module is upright) and toward the center of the module.

U.S. Patent No. 5,083,659 to Bode et al. related to a conveyor belt of modules having a first and second plurality of link ends provided with oversized openings 46a, 46b (Fig. 9) receiving a hinge pin. The openings 46a, 46b are of a generally rounded-corner triangular shape. The triangular shape is formed by a lower side 48 that is at least generally horizontal, a side 50 nearest the center of the module which is generally vertical and an oblique side 52 which faces downwardly (when the module is upright) and toward the center of the module.

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,921,379 to Horton, 5,332,084 to Greve, 5,310,046 to Palmaer et al., 5,224,583 to Palmaer et al., 5,181,601 to Palmaer et al., 5,133,449 to Spangler, 5,069,330 to Palmaer et al., 4,754,872 to Damkjaer, and 4,742,907 to Palmaer describe conveyor belts constructed of individual modules having only one of the link ends provided with an elongate pivot rod receiving aperture. Except for U.S. Patent No. 5,332,084 to Greve, the apertures are elongate in the direction of travel of the conveyor belt. The Greve patent shows apertures 30 elongate perpendicular to the direction of travel.

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,906,270 to Faulkner, 5,425,443 to van Zijderveld et al., 5,303,818 to Gruettner et al., 5,271,491 to Irwin, 5,217,110 to Spangler et al., 5,105,938 to Tan, 4,993,544 to Bailey et al., 4,972,942 to Faulkner, 4,949,838 to Lapeyre et al., 4,934,517 to Lapeyre, 4,901,844 to Palmaer et al., 4,893,710 to Bailey et al., 4,858,753 to Hodlewsky and Des. 282,907 to Schroeder et al. each show conveyor modules wherein the pivot rod openings in both the first and second link ends are elongate in the direction of conveyor belt travel.

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,911,305 to Layne, 5,738,205 to Draebel, 5,690,210 to Layne, 5,645,160 to Palmaer et al., 5,628,393 to Steeber et al., 5,613,597 to Palmaer et al., 5,573,105 to



Palmaer, 5,566,817 to Meeker, 5,562,200 to Daringer, 5,547,071 to Palmaer et al., 5,431,275 to Faulkner, 5,419,428 to Palmaer et al., 5,310,045 to Palmaer et al., 5,280,833 to Robin, 5,156,264 to Lapeyre, 5,156,264 to Lapeyre 5,139,135 to Irwin et al., 5,065,860 to Faulkner, 5,031,757 to Draebel et al, 4,394,901 to Roinestad, 3,768,631 to Wahren, Des. 307,707 to Abbestam et al., Des. 286,136 to Schroeder et al., WO 95/059986 to Palmaer et al. and EP0521506 to Spangler et al. describe conveyor belts constructed of individual modules having at least one of the link ends provided with an elongated pivot rod receiving aperture.

EP0739830 to Spangler et al. and EP0567337 to Spangler et al. show conveyor modules having at least one of the link ends provided with a oval opening and having a flat top upper surface.

4. The person making this statement is the agent who signs below, who makes this statement on the information supplied by the inventors and the information in the agent's file.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

Michael F. Scalise
Reg. No. 34,920

HODGSON, RUSS, ANDREWS,
WOODS & GOODYEAR, LLP
Buffalo, NY 14203-2391
(716) 856-4000
One M&T Plaza, Suite 2000
Buffalo, New York 14203
July 11, 2000